

- (57) Abstract:** A channel assignment process for a multi-stage switch arrangement having a plurality of inputs arranged in a plurality of logical associations and a plurality of outputs, wherein time-slotted traffic is received by each logical association of inputs is operated on by one or more switching stages arranged to operate only on traffic provided by the respective logical association of inputs, the channel assignment process comprising: for each logical association, aggregating the time-slots carrying traffic from the inputs forming said logical association to form a channel comprising a plurality of logically associated time-slots; determining a path through a spatial switching stage of the switch arrangement arranged to receive a said channel from each of said logical associations of inputs of the switch arrangement; determining a path for each time-slot within each logical association such that a plurality of end-to-end time-space channels are provided for one or more inputs of the switch arrangement to their requested output via said channel through said spatial switching stage of the switch arrangement.



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